

I am writing in regards to the proposed screening of 0-3 year old's for mental illness.

As a mother of 4 children, I find this proposal to be absolutely absurd!

The checklist questions are so subjective, that all children could be at risk of being labelled mentally ill & therefore, could potentially be prescribed a psychiatric drug.

I cannot see how you can predict at such a young age their future mental illness.

The words "emerging disorders" means although the child doesn't have anything wrong yet, they could in the future based on psychiatry's "predictions" & so should be treated now.

It is not possible to predict future mental illness based on an arbitrary list of questions on a checklist.

The symptoms used to identify the so called psychiatric disorders include:

Irregular feeding: I don't know of any baby that doesn't feed irregularly.

Difficulty sleeping: We all have difficulty sleeping at times.

Whining & crying: They are normal emotions, it's a way of expressing themselves.

Temper tantrums: Normal with every child

Shyness, sleeping with the light on and hyperactivity; Normal with every child.

All of these symptoms are **NORMAL CHILD BEHAVIOR !**

These are not symptoms to label anything a psychiatric disorder in a child.

It's normal human behavior.

There is nothing unusual in that list that is not normal child emotion or behavior.

The fact that child nurses in community health centre's will conduct the behavioral screening, is a joke. Mothers go to those nurses for help, not to have their normal child screened for behavioral issues and get referred a final diagnosis.

Why would you want to drug children for normal behavior??

These psychiatric drugs also carry heavy side effects & adverse reactions. They have a list of warnings on the box for people to read. These drugs are addictive & are not easy to come off, once someone is on them.

Per "Australia's drug regulatory agency's adverse drug reaction database", as on Jan 2019, there have been 47,459 adverse reaction reports linked to antidepressants, antipsychotic's & stimulants, including 1,707 deaths.

Ask yourself this – Would you want your children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews prescribed these drugs at such an early age, where they have no say in the matter?

I think not.

Please do not let this proposal go ahead & ruin millions of beautiful children's lives.

Please let them grow up with no drugging. The world has enough of it going on.

Thank you.